instructions are issued from time to time to Ministries/Departments. Some of the initiatives taken with a view to ensure better control and monitoring of expenditure include *inter alia*, preparation of monthly expenditure plans for achieving greater evenness in budgetary expenditure, strict monitoring of utilization certificates and ensuring their receipts from implementing agencies before further disbursements of funds are made, monitoring of the level of unspent balances with various implementing agencies, and preparation of Outcome/Performance Budget.

Night landing facilities for airport in Assam

*206. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether the Ministry will consider night landing facilities for aircrafts at the Mohan Bari Airport in Dibrugarh District and Kumbhigram (Silchar) Airport adjoining Bangladesh Border in Assam in North-Eastern Region considering the strategic importance of its location in the international border area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Yes, Sir. At Mohan Bari Airport in Dibrugarh, night landing facilities like high intensity runway lights, apron flood lights, Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and taxiway edge lights are already available.

At Kumbhigram (Silchar) airport, PAPI at both the ends of runway is already available. Airports Authority of India has plans to provide runway lights and approach lights at this airport.

Losses in Indian

*207. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian is continuously running into losses;

(b) if so, the details of profit and loss for the last three years till date and the main reasons for losses;

(c) whether flights of Indian have been cancelled to reduce the losses; and

(d) if so, the details of flights cancelled and timing thereof and the amount of money saved as a result of cancellation of flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, Indian Airlines has earned net profit of Rs. 44.17 crores in 2003-04, Rs. 65.61 crores in 2004-05 and Rs. 49.50 crores in 2005-06.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Price rise of essential commodities

*208. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have gone into the causes for the recent rise in prices of goods for common man's consumption in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the quantum of price rise and Government's assessment of the situation;

(c) the immediate remedial steps taken/contemplated by Government; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Sir, the increase in prices of certain commodities that is being experienced is due to factor like hardening of international prices and mismatch in demand and supply.

(b) The WPI based average of inflation rate for the last six months are as per the Table below